



Stone Urban District Council

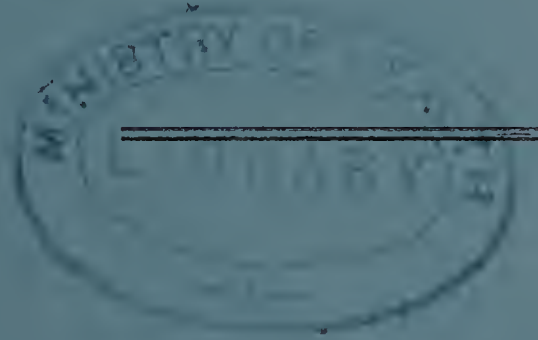
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. G. MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1950



R. W. HOURD & SON, LTD., PRINTERS

STONE and STAFFORD

Stone Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Stone Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you herewith my Annual Report for 1950.


I wish to express my thanks to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the clerical staff of my Department for all their hard work and valuable assistance throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, the Health Visitor and all others who have helped or advised me during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health—

R. G. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health—

C. Arthur, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector—

G. A. Graves, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

B. J. Palmer, A.R.San.I.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS AND CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,605
Population (General Register Office)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,170
Number of inhabited houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*2,492
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£42,745
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£169

* This figure is lower than that for 1949 because inadvertently for that year the number of rateable premises other than inhabited houses was included in the total.

Industries.

Boot and Shoe Factories	Pottery Factory.
Breweries	Tile Factory
Glass Works	Farms

General.

Generally, the health of the community remained good during 1950 apart from the widespread epidemic of measles which hit Stone during July and August.

There were slightly fewer births and slightly fewer deaths than in 1949, giving correspondingly lower birth and death rates. Both these rates are slightly above those for England and Wales, but both showed a bigger drop during 1950 than did those for the whole country.

The death rate from puerperal causes was 0.00 per 1,000 during 1950, compared with 0.15 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The still births per 1,000 population were 0.24 compared with 0.37 for England and Wales.

These last two rates are encouraging, but the death rate for infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births—43.5—compared with

29.8 for England and Wales shows that there is no room for complacency amongst those concerned with the welfare of expectant and nursing mothers and their infants, and of these I would name the parents themselves as being the most important.

Finally, I should stress that with such a small population too much significance cannot be attached to any one of these 'rates' as the addition or subtraction of one or two cases makes a big difference to the 'rate per thousand.'

Tuberculosis.

The situation regarding Tuberculosis shows considerable improvement compared with 1949. There were six new notifications compared with sixteen for 1949. There were, however, four deaths during 1950 compared with three during 1949. As before every effort was made by me and my Staff to co-operate with the Tuberculosis Officer, especially as regards housing.

There were sixty-five names on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1950, the same figure as at the end of 1949.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

The most outstanding feature during 1950 as regards Infectious Disease was the exceptionally widespread epidemic of Measles which occurred in Stone during July and August. The measles was of average severity. Happily no deaths were reported as being due to the disease.

Typhoid Fever.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred in a young married woman. Investigation for the source of infection threw suspicion on her mother-in-law and her mother-in-law's sister, both of whom gave a history of having suffered from typhoid some thirty-three years previously. Both these ladies were found to be excreting *Salmonella Typhosa* in their stools. Both were given strict instructions regarding their personal hygiene, and the premises are being sprayed with DDT at intervals to keep down flies.

Diptheria.

One case of Diptheria was notified, occurring in a young married woman. Investigation of all her close contacts failed to reveal a source of infection. It was assumed that she contracted the infection during a visit to London from which place she had just returned. This is the first case notified since February, 1947.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of non-paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred in a young child, who made a complete recovery.

Food Poisoning.

One outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred, involving five persons. The organism responsible was *Staphylococcus Aureus*. The food responsible was chocolate eclairs of the same batch which caused a bigger outbreak of Food Poisoning in Stoke-on-Trent.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The survey of all catering establishments embarked upon during 1949 was completed. All food shops were subject to regular routine inspections. The standards generally were satisfactory, and the persons concerned were co-operative and willing to remedy any defects without recourse having to be made to formal action.

In February, 1950, Bye-laws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air came into force.

A copy of these Bye-laws was circulated to all the food handling premises in Stone together with a leaflet from the Medical Officer of Health dealing with food hygiene.

The film 'Another Case of Food Poisoning' was shown for one week during July in Stone Picture House by kind permission of the Management.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken during 1950 under Section 47 of this Act.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

General Practice and Domiciliary Nursing.

Stone is excellently served by four general medical practitioners, two District Nurse-Midwives and two Midwives in private practice.

Hospital Services.

A full range of hospital services is available at Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent. Cases of Infectious Diseases may be admitted to Moxley Isolation Hospital, near Wednesbury, or to Bucknall Isolation Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Trent House Hospital, Stone, is available for chronic cases.

School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres.

These services are run by the County Council.

The School Clinic is held at St. Michael's Hall every Thursday morning.

Two Infant Welfare Centres are held within the Urban District, one at Walton Community Centre every Wednesday afternoon, and one at St. Michael's Hall every Thursday afternoon. A School Dental Clinic is situated at the Kitchener Institute.

Ambulance Service.

A sixteen hours a day service was maintained by the County Council from an ambulance station in Stone. Efforts by the Urban District Council to secure a twenty-four hour service proved unavailing.

Tuberculosis Service.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the Town Hall, Stone, was closed by the Stafford Hospital Management Committee in September, 1950. The reason given for this action was shortage of Staff; and an undertaking was given that the Dispensary would be re-opened as soon as the staffing situation would allow of this being done. The Dispensary had not been re-opened up to 31st December, 1950.

As a result of this closure patients have to go to the Dispensary at Mill Bank, Stafford, at considerable personal inconvenience. It is earnestly hoped that it will soon be possible to re-open the Dispensary at Stone.

Laboratory Service.

A comprehensive laboratory service is available at the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford.

Mortuary.

The mortuary at Trent House Hospital is available when required.

Health Visiting.

A full time Health Visitor is employed within the Urban District, by the County Council.

C. VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics give particulars of the births and deaths in the district, and show various 'rates,' which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales. A complete list of the causes of death will be found in Table No. 7 at the end of the report. It must be realised that the numbers concerned are small, and that the 'rate' calculated from them must not be relied upon as a basis for conclusions about conditions in the area.

Table No. 1.

	<i>Live Births.</i>		<i>Still Births.</i>		<i>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	74	59	2	—	4	2
Illegitimate.....	2	3	—	—	—	—
	76	62	2	—	4	2

Table No. 2. Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	<i>Deaths in Stone U.D.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births. Stone U.D. England and Wales.</i>
Abortion with Sepsis	0.00	0.00
Other abortion	0.00	0.05
Complications of pregnancy and delivery	0.00	0.54
Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	0.00	0.03
Other complications of the puerperium	0.00	0.15

Table No. 3. Birth and Death Rates.

	<i>Stone Urban District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	16.8	—
Corrected	16.1	15.8
Still births per 1,000 population	0.24	—
Corrected	0.23	0.37
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.73	—
Corrected	12.46	11.6
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	43.5	29.8

Table No. 4. Infectious Diseases.

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 +</i>	<i>2 +</i>	<i>3 +</i>	<i>4 +</i>	<i>5 +</i>	<i>10 +</i>	<i>15 +</i>	<i>20 +</i>	<i>35 +</i>	<i>40 +</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	8	Nil
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	Nil
Enteric, including Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	Nil
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	6	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Measles	3	5	11	18	8	64	1	1	—	—	—	111	Nil
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	Nil
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5	Nil
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	Nil

Table No. 5.

Tuberculosis.								
New Cases and Mortality during 1950.								
Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female
0—4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
5—9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—19	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—34	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—49	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
50+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<hr/>								
	2	3	1	Nil	2	2	Nil	Nil
<hr/>								

Death Rate from Tuberculosis—Stone U.D., 0.48 ; England and Wales, 0.36 per 1,000.

Table No. 6.

Number of Cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end of the last three years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1948	27	29	93
1949	20	20	65
1950	19	22	65

Table No. 7.

Causes of Death

In Stone Urban District in 1950.

Classified according to the Registrar General's Short List of causes.

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
8.	Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
16.	Diabetes	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	2
20.	Other heart disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
22.	Influenza	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	1
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	3
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—
34.	All other accidents	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
35.	Suicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—
All causes						55	48

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

During the passage of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board Bill through the House of Lords, which provided for the inclusion of the Stone Urban District Area within the new proposed extended Water Board Area, negotiations were completed by agreement whereby the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board extended their supply area to the Stone Urban District, thereby accepting responsibility for the supply and distribution of water within the district. The Pumping Station and all mains were transferred to the Water Board at a cost of £21,715. The transfer was operative from the 1st April, 1950.

The supply of water to consumers within the Urban District has continued to be plentiful and wholesome. Routine samples are taken by the Board's chemist and copies of reports upon the samples are received from the Board.

No adverse reports upon the water supplies have been received during the twelve months under review.

New Supplies.

During 1950, an additional 28 new houses were connected to the mains.

Sect. 30, Water Act, 1945.

Only one house in the area has no connection to the mains supply. There are, however, approximately 36 houses in which the positioning of the supply is unsatisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year work was started to replace the top 9ins. of filter media of one of the filter beds ; up to date, nearly one quarter of the surface of the bed has been renewed. The existing top layer of media is rather small and packs flat, causing ponding on the beds. In my report last year, I pointed out that as further houses are erected, additional filter area will have to be provided. However, we found the situation during 1950 very similar to that of 1949, and no serious overloading of the works occurred as shown by the continuing good reports upon the effluent.

The sludge digestion tank which has now been in operation nearly four years still proves to be very satisfactory and greatly assists in the disposal of sludge. Two acres of land adjoining the works has been used for the purpose of disposing of sludge during the winter months.

Minor improvements to the sewage works have been carried out during the year, thereby saving time and expense in maintenance.

141,294,000 gallons of sewage received treatment at the disposal works, which is an increase of 18,450,000 gallons over last year. This increase is no doubt accounted for by closer control of the pumps during storm time. However, during storms, sewage in excess of six times the dry weather flow passes through the storm tanks at the pumping station, and the two storm overflows, one in Abbey Street and one in Newcastle Road, operate at this level.

During the year 29.22 inches of rain were recorded at the Sewage Works, there being 157 rainless days or 46 days less rain than in 1949. Although a great deal of rain fell during the summer months of this year, the relatively rainless Spring accounts for the high number of rainless days.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of household refuse continues to be undertaken on a weekly basis throughout the Urban District and disposed of at the Stafford Street tip by controlled tipping.

One complaint with regard to flies at the tip was received during the twelve months and steps were taken to eliminate the alleged nuisance. From time to time difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient material to properly seal off the refuse, but generally I think the disposal of refuse is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Closet Accommodation.

During 1950 none of the 21 pail closets and 20 septic tanks in the district were eliminated. However, steps are now being taken in the Lichfield Road area to dispose of a number of these installations.

The two slop closets which figured in my report last year have now been converted into modern water closets.

Salvage.

The collection and sale of salvage has continued throughout the year. Details of amounts salvaged, prices and receipts are shown in the table below.

	<i>Weights.</i>			<i>Av. Prices.</i>			<i>Receipts.</i>		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper (Selected)	8	7	3	7	11	9	63	12	6
„ „ (Mixed)	41	16	1	4	10	1	188	7	9
Scrap Iron	7	17	2	2	5	0	17	14	4
Rags	2	2	0	14	0	0	29	8	0
Bones		2	2	5	15	0		14	5
	60	6	0				299	17	0

Weights salvaged during the year are comparable with those of 1949. Total receipts for salvage show an increase of £53 14s. 0d. over the previous year. The price paid for waste paper rose from £2 per ton at the beginning of the year to £7 at the end of the year.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year under the authority of the various statutory powers :—

		<i>Notices Served</i>		<i>Notices Complied with</i>		<i>Notices from Previous Year</i>		
		<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal Outstand- ing</i>	<i>Com- plied with</i>	
Dwelling Houses	660	45	—	18 (+21)	—	17	17
Housing Applications	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	12	—	—	—	1	1	1
Drainage	264	3	—	3	—	—	—
Piggeries (or other animal keeping)	20	2	—	2	—	—	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	136	27	—	23	—	11	11
Nightsoil Collection	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds		19	1	—	1	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops		50	7	—	5	—	2	2
Rats and Mice	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outworkers	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Petroleum Licences	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisance	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	201	2	—	2	—	—	—
Slaughterhouse	409	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat Shops	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Food Shops	162	4	—	4	—	4	4
Cafes, Restaurants, and Canteens	30	6	—	5	—	—	—
Ice Cream Vendors	110	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	6	—	—	—	1	1	1
Cowsheds	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Persons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2424	97	—	63 21 partly	—	36	36

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1.—(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	275
(b) Number of inspections made for the above purposes	660
2.—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
3.—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub headings) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	57

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	73
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year—

Authority was given by the Council for Statutory Notices to be served in three cases but it was found unnecessary to serve them. In all cases, the owners had the work carried out on being made aware that authority had been given by the Council for a Statutory Notice to be issued.

Two individually unfit houses were demolished during the year as a result of informal action.

Total number of houses on which either some repairs or improvement work was carried out	131
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Total number of premises other than dwelling houses on which either some repair or improvement work was carried out (including shops, factories and public houses)	43
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During this year it has become increasingly difficult to persuade owners of domestic property to carry out even the most essential repairs. In many cases, owners are finding it impossible to meet the increasing costs of labour and building materials while rents remain unchanged under the provisions of the Rent Restrictions Acts. This lack of balance between receipts and expenditure is clearly shown by example—the cost of pointing one house wall only, absorbs the nett receipts from that house for a period of two years. Too rigid control of rents of property held by private owners would seem in the long run to operate against the best interests of the tenant.

Housing.

Table No. 1.

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(i) by local authority	.....	.....	.....	20
(ii) by other local authorities	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(iii) by private enterprise	.....	.....	.....	6
(iv) by Ministry of Supply	.....	.....	.....	Nil
				—
				26
				—

Table No. 2.

Number of houses owned by the Council on 31st December, 1950, built under the Housing Acts :—

During the years	1919—1940	.....	.....	321
	1947—1948	.....	.....	24
	1948—1949	.....	.....	72
	1949—1950	.....	.....	57
	1950—1951	.....	.....	20
				—
				494
				—

The number of houses erected by the Local Authority during the year, 20, compares most unfavourably with the figures of 72 and 57 for 1948 and 1949 respectively.

This low figure was largely due to shortage of favourable building sites. During the year preliminary steps were taken by the Council to acquire sufficient land by compulsory purchase, and it is estimated that the land to be acquired will accommodate 115 Council houses.

Verminous Premises.

It is again pleasing to report that no serious cases of verminous infestation came to my notice during the year, and that housing standards continue to improve.

Rodent Control.

On 31st March, 1950, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, came into operation. This Act substantially re-enacted, with certain amendments, The Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and also made provision for control of infestations of food.

Routine treatment of manholes and sewers has been carried out during this year in co-operation with the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In addition, a considerable number of treatments to private houses and business premises have been carried out, and on the whole treatments have been very successful.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938.

Mr. W. Tams, the Shops Act Inspector, made 87 visits to traders during the period.

Eleven cases were noted in which the trader was not displaying the requisite notice under the above Acts. In all cases, informal action was taken and all cases remedied.

Generally it was found that the traders are complying with the Acts and were both helpful and co-operative.

Factories Act, 1937.

Routine inspections of all factories were carried out, and particulars of visits and notices served are enumerated below. It is pleasing to observe that the factories in the district are administered satisfactorily from a public health point of view by their various managements.

Factories Act, 1937.

<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Inspections. Written Notices.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
45	60	4	Nil

Defects found—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences :—		
(a) Insufficient	0	1
	(carried over from 1949)	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4
Other offences against the Act	3	3

Means of Escape in Case of Fire :—

Three informal notices were served and one complied with. Work is in progress in connection with the outstanding notices.

Smoke Abatement.

Following action taken by your Public Health Committee during 1949 steps have been taken by two firms in the district to obviate the emission of black smoke from their premises. In the one case, a new chimney stack has been built and the work of connecting up the boilers to it is still in hand. In the other case, new induced draught mechanism has been installed, which has satisfactorily eliminated the smoke nuisance. Machinery for a second smaller boiler is on order and will be installed as soon as available.

Domestic fire appliances still give rise to considerable atmospheric pollution and very little can be done to avoid this until such time as new fittings are installed in the older houses when

approved types of solid fuel grates can be provided. All new houses, and houses which are having renewals which are subject to a building licence, now have to provide an approved type of grate, which will go a long way to restricting pollution of the atmosphere from this source.

Camping Sites.

There are no licenced camping sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the district. One application for a licence to station a caravan on land in the district was received and conditional approval given, but the application was subsequently withdrawn.

A field adjoining the River Trent is used occasionally for stationing caravan for a limited period, and regular inspections are carried out when the site is so used to ensure that reasonable sanitary accommodation and water supplies are provided. The occasional use of land for the above purpose is permitted under the Public Health Act, 1936, subject to its use being restricted to not more than 42 consecutive days in any one year or more than 60 days in any 12 months.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Shops and Food Preparation Premises.

Routine inspections of shops and food preparation premises have been regularly carried out during the year, and I am pleased to report that no serious contraventions of the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Food Bye-laws were observed. All shops have proper washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.

The standard for the storage and display of perishable goods, particularly fish, has been improved by the provision in certain shops of enclosed display refrigerators, which is a distinct improvement over the old practice of exhibiting these foods on open counters. However, this problem has not been completely resolved as there still exist one or two premises where such facilities as aforementioned are not provided.

Ten informal notices were served under this heading, and all but one have been complied with. The outstanding notice which entailed structural alterations is in hand.

Milk Supply.

Now that the responsibility for the supervision of cow sheds and dairies on farms has passed to the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, your officers no longer carry out inspections of such premises, but the four registered dairies in the Urban District (i.e., premises from which milk is distributed) are inspected from time to time.

The routine sampling of milk is carried out by the County Council and copies of all analyses are sent to my office and details reported to your Council. Where samples prove to be unsatisfactory, they are followed up either by consultation with the Ministry or independent action by your officers, which is limited to taking check samples and the inspection of dairies under their control.

In my opinion there is now too much division of authority in the control of milk supplies. There are three statutory authorities involved in the control of milk, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the County Council and the Local District Council, each of which have different functions to perform. Unless there is the closest constant co-operation and liaison between the three authorities the efficient control of milk supplies becomes very difficult.

In my view, the control of the whole production, handling and distribution of milk should be in the hands of a single large authority vested with all necessary powers.

The following table gives particulars of the registrations and licences granted by this Authority :

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Distributors of milk within the area	.....	.....	.....	7
Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) within the area	.....	.....	.....	4

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers licensed to distribute specially designated milk within the area :—

Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	3
Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	1
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	5
Accredited	.....	.....	.....	2

Ice Cream.

Regular sampling of ice cream was carried out in the district, and a total of 98 samples were taken from retailers in the town and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory—80 for bacteriological examination and 18 for chemical analysis. The results are listed below.

Bacteriological Examination.

<i>Grade 1.</i>	<i>Grade 2.</i>	<i>Grade 3.</i>	<i>Grade 4.</i>
45	16	10	9

Chemical Analysis.

With fat content over	10%.....	.....	.....	2
„ „ „ „	9%.....	.....	.....	4
„ „ „ „	8%.....	.....	.....	3
„ „ „ „	6%.....	.....	.....	2
„ „ „ „	5%.....	.....	.....	1
„ „ „ „	2.5%.....	.....	.....	6

The nine Grade 4 samples listed above were mainly returned by one manufacturer during the early part of the season. In response to the efforts made by your officers these samples improved considerably and the majority of samples taken at the end of the season were within Provisional Grade 1.

Two new applications for licences to retail pre-packed ice cream were granted during the year.

All ice cream is now sold pre-packed, which is a step in the right direction, thus eliminating, as far as possible, contamination during its passage from the manufacturer to the consumer.

Meat Inspection.

The slaughter of animals for human consumption within the Stone Urban and Rural Districts continues to be carried out at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse. Where possible, all animals are inspected before slaughter and all carcasses are inspected after slaughter. The work is carried out under rather difficult conditions owing to the limited size of the slaughterhouse, which makes hygienic dressing of carcasses difficult, as is also their inspection by your officers.

During the year improvements and alterations were carried out by the Ministry of Food to some of the buildings attached to the slaughterhouse. Steps were also initiated to provide an additional building to accommodate carcasses after slaughter. These negotiations are still under consideration. Details of carcasses inspected are shown in the following table :—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep & Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed.....	1068	571	3138	44
Number inspected	1068	571	3138	44
All diseases except tuberculosis.				
Whole carcasses condemned	6	21	24	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	278	4	216	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	26.59	4.38	7.65	38.64
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcasses condemned	18	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	164	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	17.04	—	—	6.82

Total weight of meat condemned	.....	7 tons 14 cwts. 44 lbs.
„ „ „ offal „	.....	6 tons 14 cwts. 21 lbs.
Other Food condemned	.....	574 lbs. 14½ ozs.

The preparation and cutting up room attached to a butcher's shop in the district was reconstructed, thereby safeguarding the hygienic distribution of meat.

